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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MELENDEZ-BARAHONA (El Salvador)

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9 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the new States which had during the year become Members of the United Nations. Their presence embodied the United Nations principle of universality, and their participation in the Committee's deliberations would unquestionably advance the objectives of the Charter and help the Organization meet the serious economic, political, social, ethnic and environmental challenges it still faced.

2. Since 1945, more than 80 peoples had become sovereign States, under the impetus of the Declaration on decolonization and aided by the work of the Special Committee on decolonization. Unfortunately, the welcome trend towards decolonization and nationhood had lately been accompanied by fierce new assertions of nationalism and sovereignty, and the cohesion of States was, as the Secretary-General had warned in "An agenda for peace" (A/47/277-S/24111), threatened by brutal ethnic, religious, social, cultural or linguistic strife. At the same time, there remained some peoples which had yet to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

3. Thus, the work of decolonization was not done. The United Nations had recognized that fact by designating the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Elimination of Colonialism, and recently the leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement had at their latest Conference of Heads of State or Government in Jakarta made the completion of the decolonization process one of their major objectives.

4. The climate of détente and cooperation prevailing in the world and within the United Nations encouraged the hope that concerted decisions could be taken to resolve conflicts or defuse situations that threatened international peace and security, and that the Security Council would as it had pledged at its summit meeting in January, work closely with other Member States to deal with the old and new tasks before the Organization, especially those, like decolonization, whose completion was mandated by the Charter. Such renewed international cooperation should foster a constructive relationship between the administering Powers of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the Special Committee, so that all could work to fulfil the Charter principle that the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories were paramount.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

5. Mr. AL-BAKER (Qatar) nominated Mr. Kember (New Zealand) for one of the posts of Vice-Chairman.

6. Mr. KPOTOGBEY (Togo) seconded the nomination.

7. Mr. Kember (New Zealand) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.4/47/1; A/C.4/47/L.1; A/INF/47/1)

8. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document A/C.4/47/1 containing the list of agenda items allocated to the Committee and to document A/INF/47/1 containing a note by the Secretary-General on control and limitation of documentation. The Committee also had before it the Chairman's note on the organization of work (A/C.4/47/L.1), and he drew particular attention to paragraphs 3, 7 and 8. Also, he was suggesting that the Committee should begin with one general debate covering all the items allocated to it for debate by the General Assembly; and that it should also follow the established practice of considering chapter VI of the Special Committee's report (A/47/23 (Part III)) in conjunction with agenda item 99.

9. He would take it that the Committee wished to approve the provisional programme of work outlined in document A/C.4/47/L.1, subject to modificationas required.

10. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (A/47/23 (Part V, chap. IX, and Part VI, chap. X), 225 and 391; A/AC.109/1097-1106, 1108-1113, 1116-1120, 1123-1125; S/23362, S/24040 and S/24464)

AGENDA ITEM 98: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/47/23 (Part IV, chap. VIII), 120, 204, 240 and 473)

AGENDA ITEM 99: ACTIVITIES OF THOSE FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/47/23 (Part III, chaps. V and VI); A/AC.109/1103-1104, 1110, 1113, 1117-1119, 1123 and 1124)

AGENDA ITEM 100: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (A/47/23 (Part IV, chap. VII), A/47/281 and Add.1; A/AC.109/L.1785; E/1992/85)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/47/3 (chaps. I and V (sect. B)))

AGENDA ITEM 101: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/47/486)

11. Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) introduced the chapters of the report of the Special Committee on decolonization, relating to agenda items 18, 98, 99 and 100 (A/47/23 (Part V, chap. IX and Part VI, chap X; Part IV, chap VIII; Part III, chaps. V and VI; Part IV, chap. VII)).

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

12. In response to the requests made by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/71, paragraph 12, the Special Committee had given extensive consideration to the situation prevailing in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as to the other related questions, and had adopted a series of recommendations and proposals thereon. Pursuant to paragraph 12 (d) of that resolution, it had paid special attention to the small Territories. In that regard, he drew attention to paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 of the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly in chapter X, paragraph 25, of the Special Committee's report (A/47/23 (Part VI)).

13. The Special Committee had also considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories; its recommendations in that regard were set forth in the recommended resolution contained in chapter IV, paragraph 17, of the report (A/47/23 (Part II)). The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 1 and 2 were especially worth noting.

14. With regard to the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as indicated in chapter X, paragraph 23, of the report (A/47/23 (Part VI)), the Special Committee had decided to defer consideration of the question to its 1993 session.

15. He pointed out that France, the United Kingdom and the United States, as administering Powers, had not participated in the Special Committee's proceedings in respect of the Territories under their administration during the current year. The Special Committee hoped that the three Governments would reconsider their position in that regard.

16. With respect to information transmitted by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General under Article 73 e of the Charter, he drew attention to the draft resolution recommended in chapter VIII, paragraph 10, of the report (A/47/23 (Part IV)), especially the fifth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 3 and 4.

17. The Special Committee's recommendation on agenda item 99 was reflected in the draft resolution contained in chapter V, paragraph 15, of the report (A/47/23 (Part III)), submitted in accordance with paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 46/64. Special note should be taken of paragraphs 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 and 16 of the recommended draft resolution.

18. In accordance with established practice, and pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly decision 46/419, the Special Committee had also considered the question of military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. On that matter, it had recommended a draft decision which was set out in chapter VI, paragraph 12 of the report (A/47/23 (Part III)). He drew attention, in particular, to paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 12 of the draft decision.

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

19. The question of the extension of assistance to the peoples of colonial Territories by the organizations of the United Nations system had continued to engage the close attention of the Special Committee. Accordingly, it had recommended the draft resolution contained in chapter VII, paragraph 15, of the report (A/47/23 (Part IV)). He drew attention, in particular, to the ninth and thirteenth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 7, 8, 12, 13 and 16.

20. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the recommendation of the Special Committee regarding the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, contained in document A/47/23 (Part VI, chap. 10, para. 23).

21. It was so decided.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

22. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received nine communications containing requests for hearings under agenda items 18, 38, 99 and 100. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

23. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.